

general education classrooms. We have seen great progress from this practice. By holding students with disabilities to the same high standards that we hold general education students, we encourage them to achieve at higher levels. As with all students, students with disabilities respond well to being challenged.

Unfortunately, too many children with disabilities are underserved in general education classrooms because general education teachers often are not trained to meet their needs. As more of these children enter general education classrooms, it is critical that curricula be adapted to suit them. General education teachers and personnel must be equipped to collaborate with special education teachers to ensure that these students receive the best available education.

That is why I am reintroducing the "Teacher Training Expansion Act," legislation that is designed to support training programs for teaching students with disabilities. Specifically, this legislation would authorize the Secretary of Education to give preference, in the distribution of certain grants under IDEA, to local educational agencies and certain public or private nonprofit organizations that provide such training.

Under current law, institutions of higher education are already granted this preferential status in the distribution of these grants. However, I firmly believe that most also make eligible the local educational agencies and public or private nonprofit organizations that are at the forefront of training teachers who work with disabled students.

Madam Speaker, by supporting this legislation we will help our teachers gain the skills they need to work effectively with disabled students in general education classrooms and help make good on our promise to provide a quality education to all students.

In conclusion, let us be vigilant in leveling the playing field for our disabled and special needs communities in any way that we can. The Teacher Training Expansion Act would help in furthering this goal and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor it.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF 2007

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 19, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007. We must be mindful in the creation of long-term energy alternatives for the future of our nation, as the acronym CLEAN denotes. I am honored to be among my many esteemed colleagues as an original cosponsor of this legislation.

At this juncture, we must move beyond the obvious motivations for responsible energy policies. As my colleagues have acknowledged, scarcity of resources, national security, greenhouse gas emissions, and the impact of oil exploration top the list of concerns addressed by this legislation. However, we must also acknowledge the true impact of these challenges on our nation's most vulnerable populations. In this sense, progressive energy

policy is inextricably linked with the pursuit of true environmental justice.

Madam Speaker, my support for this legislation is founded in a profound desire to confront the diminishing life changes and debilitating health conditions attributed to polluting energy sources. Asthma has significantly increased over the past few decades, especially among African American populations. In 2004, 17 percent of African Americans under the age of 18 lived with asthma compared to only 11 percent of their white counterparts. On behalf of our children, we must understand the root cause of this disparity and take action to pursue alternative sources of energy for posterity.

Furthermore, I support the thrust of this legislation because it discourages extraction from offshore oil and natural gas reserves. I stand with many of my constituents in acknowledging that the pursuit of these resources has the potential to cause life-threatening accidents and irreversible environmental damage to our Outer Continental Shelf. Rescinding incentives for this form of oil and natural gas production set forth in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act will undoubtedly protect our fragile marine ecosystems and stimulate the quest for alternative energy sources.

Madam Speaker, complemented by other pieces of legislation, the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007 will bring accountability to the industries responsible for many environmental injustices and shift our nation away from a defunct paradigm of reliance on irresponsible energy sources. A new age for energy use is upon us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 19, 2007*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, because of a death in the family, I was absent for roll-call votes 24 through 33.

If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 24—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 25—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 26—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 27—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 28—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 29—"No"; Rollcall No. 30—"No"; Rollcall No. 31—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 32—"Yes"; and Rollcall No. 33—"Yes."

IN HONOR OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 19, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Japanese American Citizens League of the Monterey Peninsula. On January 25, 1932, two years after the national Japanese American Citizens League was formed, 18 charter members organized this local chapter to fight against discriminatory legislation and racial prejudice, and to help their first generation citizens (Issei) navigate through the American bureaucracy in such matters as alien registration.

Throughout the 1930's, the chapter involved itself in the larger community. In 1937, they made a giant American Flag to carry in the Independence Day parade. They reasoned that only a few people could ride on a float but 60 people could carry this huge flag. Another way they assimilated into the community was to participate in organized sports. The JACL-sponsored Monterey Minato established a formidable reputation and broke records in several sports because of its gifted athletes. From 1934 to the outbreak of World War II, the Monterey Minatos virtually dominated all other teams within the Central California Coast Counties Athletic Association. In 1938, just three Minato trackmen won nine of the eleven events at the YMCA Olympics at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco.

Built in 1927, the JACL Hall was originally the Japanese Association building, erected for the purpose of creating a community center for immigrant Japanese. In 1942, the leaders of the Japanese Association gifted the building to the JACL as a way to keep it serving the community. During World War II, the building was used by the National Guard, and after the war it became a hostel for returning internees. Today the Hall plays host to the JACL Japanese Language School, Nisei Memorial Post 1629 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Chinese Language School, Nisei Bowling League, Monterey and Satsuma Bonsai Clubs, Mugen Shinshu Daiko (Japanese Drum) classes, Tai Chi, and Jazzercise. The JACL Hall has truly become an Asian Cultural Center.

Today the chapter continues to fight for tolerance and diversity, helps its members preserve their cultural heritage, and assists new immigrants assimilate into society. As they begin their eighth decade, they will build on their 75-five year commitment to redress racism in our society, so that the next generation truly experiences equal justice under law.

Madam Speaker, I know all our colleagues join me in applauding the JACL and in wishing them continued success for these most admirable goals.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2007*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, access to quality affordable higher education is a national imperative and should be a priority of this Congress. Yet despite the clear necessity of an accessible higher education system, the ever rising cost of a college education continues to put more students at risk of not being able to afford to pursue their dreams. I supported this legislation because I believe it will give relief to middle-class graduates on the interest rates they pay on student loans. But, unfortunately the legislation before us today does little to address students' immediate needs such as rapidly rising tuition costs.

This bill instead provides for a limited benefit for a limited number of borrowers already through college. Student loan programs are a critical piece of the education financing puzzle. They have served millions of students who have relied on them to achieve their dreams of obtaining a postsecondary education.